

PUBLICATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (EFSA)

European Food Safety Authority, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. **The European Union summary report on trends and sources of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2015.** *EFSA Journal* 2016;14(12):4634 doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2016.4634 This report presents the results of the zoonoses monitoring activities carried out in 2015 in 32 European countries (28 Member States (MS) and four non-MS). *Campylobacteriosis* was the most commonly reported zoonosis and the increasing European Union (EU) trend for confirmed human cases since 2008 continued. In food, the occurrence of *Campylobacter* remained high in broiler meat. The decreasing EU trend for confirmed human salmonellosis cases since 2008 continued, but the proportion of human *Salmonella* Enteritidis cases increased. More *S. Enteritidis* isolates were reported and *S. Infantis* was confirmed as the most frequent serovar isolated from domestic fowl. In foodstuffs, the EU level *Salmonella* non-compliance for minced meat and meat preparations from poultry was low. Despite the significant increasing trend since 2008, the number of human listeriosis cases stabilised in 2015. In ready-to-eat foods, *Listeria monocytogenes* seldom exceeded the EU food safety limit. The decreasing EU trend for confirmed yersiniosis cases since 2008 continued. Positive findings for *Yersinia* were mainly reported in pig meat and products thereof. The number of confirmed shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) infections in humans was similar to 2014. In food, STEC was most frequently reported in meat from ruminants. A total of 4,362 food-borne outbreaks, including water-borne outbreaks, were reported. Bacteria were the most commonly detected causative agents, followed by bacterial toxins, viruses, other causative agents and parasites. The causative agent remained unknown in 33.5% of all outbreaks. As in previous years, *Salmonella* in eggs continued to represent the highest risk agent/food combination. The report further summarises trends and sources for tuberculosis due to *Mycobacterium bovis*, *Brucella*, *Trichinella*, *Echinococcus*, *Toxoplasma*, rabies, *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever), West Nile virus and tularaemia.

EFSA Guidance Document for predicting environmental concentrations of active substances of plant protection products and transformation products of these active substances in soil. *EFSA Journal* 2017;15(10):4982 doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2017.4982 This EFSA Guidance Document provides guidance for the exposure assessment of soil organisms to plant

protection products (PPPs) and their transformation products in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council. This guidance was produced by EFSA in response to a question posed by the European Commission according to Article 31 of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Guidance is provided for all types of concentrations that are potentially needed for assessing ecotoxicological effects, i.e. the concentration in total soil and the concentration in pore water, both averaged over various depths and time windows. The current guidance considers both permanent crops and annual crops. The recommended exposure-assessment procedure consists of four tiers. To facilitate efficient use of the tiered approach in regulatory practice, user-friendly software tools have been developed. In higher tiers of the exposure assessment, crop interception and subsequent dissipation at the crop canopy may be included. The models that simulate these processes were harmonised. In addition, easy-to-use tables for the fraction of the dose intercepted by the canopy that is washed off have been developed, which should be used in combination with the simple analytical model. With respect to substance-specific model inputs, this guidance generally follows earlier documents; however, new guidance is included for some specific substance parameters.

EFSA Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP), Rychen G, Aquilina G, *et al.* **Guidance on the assessment of the safety of feed additives for the consumer.** *EFSA Journal* 2017;15(10):5022 doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2017.5022 This guidance document is intended to assist the applicant in the preparation and the presentation of an application, as foreseen in Article 7.6 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, for the authorisation of additives for use in animal nutrition. It specifically covers the assessment of the safety for the consumer. This document provides guidance on how to assess the safety for the consumer. This guidance is divided into five sections. The introduction provides the principles of the assessment of consumer safety. A catalogue of studies that may be needed is provided in Section 2 while the requirements for the different additives are listed in Section 3. Section 4 describes how to derive a highest safe intake for the consumer based on the outcome of the above studies. The safety for the consumer is assessed by comparing the exposure of the consumer to residues in food products to this safe intake. Finally, Section 5 describes how to calculate maximum residue levels (MRLs), when needed.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

Kennedy G, Lee WTK, Termote C, *et al.* **Guidelines on assessing biodiverse foods in dietary intake surveys.** Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2017; 96 p. Job Number: I6717 ISBN 978-92-5-109598-0 To make full use of available food biodiversity to enhance the nutritional status of populations, a better understanding of food biodiversity information in dietary intake is required. Currently, there are few national and regional food consumption surveys that report food biodiversity, particularly at the cultivar/breed level. Co-published with Bioversity International, these pioneering guidelines will facilitate the adaptation of existing dietary assessment instruments to better capture food biodiversity.

Lusher AL, Hollman PCH, Mendoza-Hill JJ. **Microplastics in fisheries and aquaculture. Status of knowledge on their occurrence and implications for aquatic organisms and food safety.** Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2017; 128 p. (FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper; 615) ISBN 978-92-5-109882-0 This publication provides an overview of the occurrence and effects of microplastics on aquatic organisms. It makes recommendations regarding seafood safety, environmental risk assessment approaches and targeted monitoring of microplastics in the environment. It provides detailed information on the most likely pathways in terms of sources, transport and distribution in both marine food chains and seafood value chains and provides a framework to assess the risks that may (or not) affect commercial fish stocks and consumers, as well as review current practices and limitations of microplastic sampling techniques.

Rossi W, Spano N, Sabates-Wheeler F. **Social protection and resilience: supporting livelihoods in protracted crises and in fragile and humanitarian contexts.** Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2017; 52 p. Job Number: I7606 ISBN 978-92-5-109852-3 The paper discusses the role social protection can play in saving livelihoods while also enhancing the capacity of households to respond, cope and withstand threats and crises. It focuses on social protection's role in protracted crises and fragile and humanitarian contexts, as well as discusses the importance of shock-response systems, even in stable contexts.

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/ AIDS (UNAIDS)

HIV Prevention 2020 Road Map - Accelerating HIV prevention to reduce new infections by 75%. Geneva: UNAIDS 2017; 36 p. The Road Map was prepared through a consultative process that brought together more than 40 countries and organi-

zations, including civil society organizations, networks of people living with HIV, faith-based organizations, networks of key populations and international organizations and foundations, to chart the way forward to achieving global HIV prevention goals by 2020. The Road Map provides the basis for a country-led movement to scale up HIV prevention programmes as part of Fast-Tracking a comprehensive response to meet global and national targets and commitments to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. It is relevant for all low- and middle-income countries, but it focuses on 25 countries with high numbers of new infections in adolescents and adults in 2016. Exceptional international and national efforts are needed in these countries, which account for almost 75% of new adult HIV infections globally. The focus of the Road Map is on HIV primary prevention and the promotion and provision of effective tools to prevent HIV infections. It emphasizes the empowerment of adolescent girls, young women and key populations at risk so that they can protect themselves and stay free of infection. Primary prevention complements the preventive effects of treatment—they are mutually supportive. Combination prevention packages all comprise a range of biomedical, behavioural and structural approaches, including testing and linkage to care, and efforts to address policy and human rights barriers.

Disability and HIV. Geneva: UNAIDS 2017; 28 p. UNAIDS/JC2905E This report highlights existing key evidence on the relationship between disability and HIV. It discusses the concrete steps needed for a person-centred, disability-inclusive HIV response that allows for increased participation of people with disabilities and integrates rehabilitation within the continuum of HIV care. Globally, it is estimated that 1 billion people (15% of the world's population) have a disability. Of those aged over 15 years, approximately 110–190 million (2.2–3.8%) experience significant disabilities. Disability is increasing in prevalence due to ageing populations, trauma, accidents and the increase in chronic health conditions, including HIV. Persistent discrimination against and exclusion of people with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, increases their vulnerability, including their risk of HIV infection. While the Millennium Development Goals were silent on disability, the new Sustainable Development Goals feature a strong will to “leave no one behind”, including people with disabilities.

UNAIDS data 2017. Geneva: UNAIDS 2017; 248 p. UNAIDS/JC2910E UNAIDS has collected and published information on the state of the world's HIV epidemic for the past 20 years. This information has shaped and guided the development of the response to HIV in regions, countries and cities worldwide. This edition of UNAIDS data contains the highlights of the very latest data on the world's response to HIV, consolidating a small part of the huge volume of data collected, analysed and refined by UNAIDS over the years. The full data set of information for 1990 to 2015 is available on an interactive website: aidsinfo.unaids.org. UNAIDS' data are

the gold standard—no major report, speech or policy initiative on HIV is launched or made without referring to data collected and released by UNAIDS. Global scale-up of antiretroviral therapy has been the primary contributor to a 48% decline in deaths from AIDS-related causes, from a peak of 1.9 million in 2005 to 1.0 million in 2016. Despite the fact that 51% of people living with HIV globally are female, higher treatment coverage and better adherence to treatment among women have driven more rapid declines in AIDS-related deaths among females: deaths from AIDS-related illnesses were 27% lower among women and girls in 2016 than they were among men and boys. Nonetheless, AIDS related illnesses remain the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age (15–49 years) globally, and they are the second leading cause of death for young women aged 15–24 years in Africa.

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

The Emissions Gap Report 2017: a UNEP synthesis report. Nairobi: United Nations Environment Programme. 2017, 116 p. Job number DEW/2136/PA ISBN 978 92 807 3673 1 The goal of the Paris Agreement on climate change, as agreed at the Conference of the Parties in 2015, is to keep global temperature rise this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. It also calls for efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This report presents an assessment of current national mitigation efforts and the ambitions countries have presented in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which form the foundation of the Paris Agreement. It focuses on the “gap” between the emissions reductions necessary to achieve these agreed targets at lowest cost and the likely emissions reductions from full implementation of the NDCs. It also explores potential for enhanced mitigation efforts in a number of key sectors, presenting cost-effective options for enhanced action to close the emissions gap. The overarching conclusions of the report are that there is an urgent need for accelerated short-term action and enhanced longer-term national ambition, if the goals of the Paris Agreement are to remain achievable - and that practical and cost-effective options are available to make this possible.

Global mercury supply, trade and demand. Geneva: United Nations Environment Programme, Chemicals and Health Branch. 2017, 96 p. Job number DTIE/2125/PA ISBN 978 92 807 3665 6 The world's nations adopted the Minamata Convention on Mercury to protect human health and the environment from mercury pollution. A good understanding of mercury supply, trade and demand is critical to effective implementation of the Convention. This report provides detailed and timely information on where mercury comes from, how it moves in commerce, and how it is used in products and industrial processes. To further facilitate

informed decision-making, the report also evaluates data sources, discusses trends and identifies knowledge gaps.

Financing the future: Report of the Italian National Dialogue on Sustainable Finance. Geneva: United Nations Environment Programme. 2016, 104 p. This report sets out the global and national landscape in terms of the challenge of financing sustainable development, with a focus on the environmental dimension; explores two of the key priorities that cut across the different parts of the financial system: risk analysis and reporting; looks at the experience of and potential for sustainable finance in banking, capital markets, insurance, institutional investment and public finance; and examines how progress toward sustainable finance can best be measured and concludes with the set of recommendations for further action.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Progress on drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene. 2017 update and SDG baselines. Geneva: World Health Organization. 2017, 112 p. Sw.fr. 30.00/US \$ 36.00 Order number: 19305255 ISBN 978 92 415 1289 3 The Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) 2017 update report presents indicators and baseline estimates for the drinking water, sanitation and hygiene targets within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The report introduces the indicators of safely managed drinking water and sanitation services, which go beyond use of improved facilities, to include consideration of the quality of services provided. For the first time, hygiene estimates are reported for 70 countries.

Saunders M, Barr B, McHale P, *et al.* **Key policies for addressing the social determinants of health and health inequities.** Geneva: World Health Organization. 2017, 88 p. (*Health Evidence Network Synthesis Report*; 52) Sw.fr. 30.00/US \$ 36.00 Order number: 13400188 ISBN 978 92 890 5265 8 Evidence indicates that actions within four main themes (early child development, fair employment and decent work, social protection, and the living environment) are likely to have the greatest impact on the social determinants of health and health inequities. A systematic search and analysis of recommendations and policy guidelines from inter-governmental organizations and international bodies identified practical policy options for action on social determinants within these four themes. Policy options focused on early childhood education and care; child poverty; investment strategies for an inclusive economy; active labour market programmes; working conditions; social cash transfers; affordable housing; and planning and regulatory mechanisms to improve air quality and mitigate climate change. Applying combinations of these policy options alongside effective governance for health equity should enable WHO European Region Member States to reduce health inequities and syner-



gize efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Candari CJ, Cylus J, Nolte E. **Assessing the economic costs of unhealthy diets and low physical activity. An evidence review and proposed framework.** Geneva: World Health Organization. 2017, 88 p. Sw.fr. 30.00/US \$ 36.00 Order number: 13400184 ISBN 978 92 890 5042 5 Unhealthy diets and low physical activity contribute to many chronic diseases and disability; they are responsible for some 2 in 5 deaths worldwide and for about 30% of the global disease burden. Yet surprisingly little is known about the economic costs that these risk factors cause, both for health care and society more widely. This study pulls together the evidence about the economic burden that can be linked to unhealthy diets

and low physical activity. The review finds that unhealthy diets and low physical activity predict higher health care expenditure, but estimates vary greatly. Existing studies underestimate the true economic burden because most only look at the costs to the health system. Indirect costs caused by lost productivity may be about twice as high as direct health care costs, together accounting for about 0.5% of national income. The study also tests the feasibility of using a disease-based approach to estimate the costs of unhealthy diets and low physical activity in Europe, projecting the total economic burden associated with these two risk factors as manifested in new type 2 diabetes cases at 883 million euros in 2020 for France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom alone. The 'true' costs will be higher, as unhealthy diets and low physical activity are linked to many more diseases.